

# Family History Magnifier



*"That word magnify is interesting", says Gordon B. Hinckley. "As I interpret it, it means to enlarge, to make more clear, to bring closer, and to strengthen"*

**We were all foreordained to seek out our ancestors, and to do their ordinances:**

"In our pre-existent state, in the day of the great council, we made a certain agreement with the Almighty--We agreed, right then and there, to be saviors for the whole human family. We went into a partnership with the Lord. The working out of the plan became then not merely the Father's work, and the Savior's work, but also our work." (Elder John H. Widtsoe, "The Worth of Souls", The Utah Genealogical and Historical Magazine, October 1934).

What this means is that we are on a mission. We are co-missionaries with those missionaries on the other side of the veil who are sent to our ancestors to teach them the gospel. Having found and taught those who desire to enter in at the gate, they are helpless to perform the saving ordinances. Our ancestors are unable to enter into the same covenants we have with God. They must remain without eternal family, and cannot receive the gift of the Holy Ghost, neither the holy priesthood. This is the point at which we who are still in our mortal existence must act literally as Saviours on Mount Zion for them. However, we must first seek them out.

**Our own salvation depends on the success of our greatest mission:**

"The greatest responsibility in this world that God has laid upon us is to seek after our dead."...The doctrine of salvation for the dead presents in a clear light the wisdom and mercy of God in preparing an ordinance for the salvation of our dead, being baptized by proxy, their names recorded in Heaven, and they judged according to the deeds done in the body. This doctrine was the burden of the scriptures. Those saints who neglect it do it at the peril of their own salvation." (Joseph Smith)

**The blessings are reciprocal:**

"Whosoever seeks to help those on the other side receives help in turn in all the affairs of life...Help comes to us from the other side as we give help to those who have passed beyond the veil." (Elder John A. Widtsoe, Ensign, May 1980, 40)

**The celestialized earth is foreordained to be home for the righteous posterity of Adam sealed to Jesus Christ and Heavenly Father; for the sons and daughters worthy of receiving "all that the Father hath":**

"Unless the family of the righteous are thus sealed together from father to son and from mother to daughter back to Adam and from Adam to Christ and from Jesus Christ to God the Eternal Father, the purpose of earth life has been missed, and life itself has been a waste...." (Theodore M. Burton, Assistant to the Twelve; Quorum of the Seventy).

**Personal Experiences**

"I once took a trip behind the Iron Curtain, alone, with no Eurail pass, no tour group, without speaking a word of German, Polish, Czech, or Hungarian two months before the Berlin Wall was torn down. After coming full circle back to West Germany, I received a priesthood blessing which stated that during my journey I had been aware of angels attending me. "Some of those," it said, "were your ancestors." I have no doubt that our ancestors play an active role as guardians and guides for us individually to the extent we allow. It should not be surprising that they have an interest in preserving, and enhancing our mortal lives so that we can work in their behalf as well. I am certain they pray for those blessings, just as we do on this side of the veil."

Consultant Stacy Brooks of Levan 2nd Ward reports that by using Ancestry.com she recently "blew the lid off forty names of my ancestors who all needed temple work. I had not found them anywhere else."

Consultant Judy Mills of Mona 1st Ward also reported information found on Ancestry.com. "Searching in Ancestry.com one day I found personal histories of my



husband's grandmother and great-grandmother that we didn't know existed. What an exciting moment that was for my husband and I to read these histories in their own handwriting."

### **THE GOAL: To be Completed by December 31, 2014**

1. Let's pray to receive a greater desire.
2. Let's find names of our ancestors currently eligible for temple work, and make sure ordinances are performed in their behalf (your consultants will help you).
3. Learn to do the simplest, most "basic" research so that you can add more of your ancestors to your family tree (I found hundreds of my ancestors on Ancestry.com using a minimum of research tools, and only a scant knowledge of computers). Boyd K. Packer has said we need not become "experts" in order to research our ancestors. How true that is!

**ANCESTRY.COM, MYHERITAGE, and FIND MY PAST ARE NOW PERMANENTLY FREE TO CHURCH MEMBERS.** Let us help you get your free account!

This is very do-able. Handouts will be available to help you retain what you learn in hands-on, one-on-one, or small group lessons at your own computer, or the Family History Center. We will embrace President Monson's desire that we hasten this effort. Said he, "We must plunge into this work..." (Ensign, June 2014)

**Family History Center Hours:(THIS IS THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS THERE HAS BEEN A SCHEDULE FOR THE FHC. PLEASE SUPPORT US! KEEP US BUSY!!!)**

Monday 10-noon

Tuesdays 4-9 PM

Wednesdays 11-2 (2nd & 4th Wed) & 6-9 PM

Thursday 5-8 PM.  
(10-12 only on the 20th)

Sunday 3-5

(Individuals and small groups may also make arrangements to suit your needs.)

Not long ago, a small group of seniors held their Monday family home evening at the Family History Center from 4:30 to 5:30. Robyn Allred, and Ketura Barnhill, consultants, taught them to find names for the temple in advance of their Stake temple night. Present were Bishop Lee Walker, his wife, Jolayne, and Marilyn Kendle, Loralee Nulph, and Florence Peterson. They had a good time!

Last Sunday, the Mona 1st Ward pioneered the coupon system with positive results! There are four coupons pertaining to short family history learning meetings with a consultant. All four can be passed out at once, or only one at a time (in this case, the latter.) The coupons were passed out by consultant-greeters at both entrances to the chapel at the beginning of Sacrament meeting. Before that day's meetings were finished, two coupon recipients had approached Consultant Judy Mills to make an appointment to meet in their homes. The appointments were scheduled on the spot, and were carried out the following Tuesday with fine success! The day after the coupons were distributed, Consultant Judy Mills received a phone call from yet another coupon holder. 100 coupons were passed out, one to each spouse if a couple. The four coupons pertain to specific items (for instance, #3, help signing up for your permanently free Ancestry.com account), but the above three members took the first coupon as a warm invitation, and asked Judy to help them with what they happened to need at the time! Judy loved it! Go coupon-holders! (The coupons have been sent in printable format to consultants in all wards of both stakes of Nephi.

This took place at a hands on class in the Mona First Ward. Two more joined shortly after this picture was taken with a total of 5ive people working to find names to take to the temple.



Sisters Nybo, Mills, Kay and Kay looking for names to take to the temple